

Call to Order

President Gray called the Special Meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. The following State Board members were present: Teri Quinn Gray, Nina Lou Bunting, Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr., Barbara Rutt, and Terry Whittaker. Deputy Attorney General Valerie Dunkle and Deputy Attorney General Patricia Davis were in attendance.

Discussion of JLOSC Proposed Recommendations

The Board discussed the fact that it received two versions of the proposed recommendations from the JLOSC noting that the next hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 12 noon. The Board discussed the draft responses prepared by Ms. Johnson and went through each of the recommendations. It was pointed out that the Board's authorities are outlined in various Sections of Title 14, beyond Sections 104-107 and will be added to the draft response.

With regard to the suggestion that the Board's statute is not clear as to the duties of the Board, the Board discussed cleaning up its statute and its willingness to work with its Deputy Attorney General to put together legislation in this regard.

With regard to adding removal language for Board members, the Board agreed that either of the suggested language provisions could be included in any legislation drafted to incorporate the other suggestions of the Committee.

With regard to the role of the Executive Director, the Board is amenable making revisions to the position as requested. The current job description for the Executive Director was created by the current State Board in 2011. The Board felt that including a complete job description of the Executive Director in the statute would be inconsistent with how other boards' enabling statutes are structured, but clarifying language may be added to statute regarding the position. The Board will work with its Deputy Attorney General to draft legislation in this regard.

With regard to moving the meeting location, the Board expressed concern regarding the Department's ability to provide the necessary support and resources to the Board if the meeting location changes. The Board is also concerned about finding locations that are large enough to accommodate a State Board meeting and equipped to handle the recording capability required of State Board meetings. The Board was clear that it is willing to make the Code revisions requested and work to find suitable locations in all three counties if that is what is required.

With regard to the suggestion regarding providing printed materials, the Board discussed the financial impact of this requirement and ultimately determined that it needed additional clarification of the expectations of the Committee in its proposed recommendation, and agreed they are willing to work with whatever the Committee ultimately recommends.

With regard to the suggestion regarding its process for determining the support or non-support of legislation, the Board discussed its past practices regarding handling its legislative positions and indicated that going forward it will be taking a vote on its position so that the Board's position is officially on the record.

With regard to adding two additional non-voting members to the Board, the Board questioned the applicability of adding a military member to the Board, and may ask for clarification on this item. However, the Board was clear that if recommended, it will work to draft a bill to add additional members.

With regard to the recommendation regarding a sustainable path for charter schools, the Board is going to have to seek clarification from the Committee on this item. Obtaining local buy-in on charter schools is the applicant's responsibility, and local school districts have the ability to assess impacts, but the authorizer cannot make a determination on that basis alone. As written, there are multiple entities that would be required to address this recommendation.

A motion was made by Ms. Bunting, seconded by Mr. Coverdale to adopt the draft responses, as amended by today's discussion as the position of the Board at the upcoming Committee hearing. The motion passed unanimously.